

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01071 241024Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 JUSE-00 EB-08 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: KCIA ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 0935

SUMMARY. CONCERNED THAT ALLEGATIONS OF KCIA MISDEEDS IN JAPAN HAVE POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTING FORTHCOMING DIET SESSION, GOJ ANNOUNCED JANUARY 22 OWN INVESTIGATION POLICY. GOJ INTENDS TO ASK ROK AND USG FOR ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING CONTENTS OF RANARD STATEMENTS AND DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS FACTUAL BASIS FOR THEM. OPPOSITION NOT EXPECTED TO BE SATISFIED, HOWEVER, AND PRESS

EXPECTS IT WILL SEEK TO TIE CIA TO LOCKHEED SCANDAL, ETC. SEVERAL REPORTERS HAVE TOLD US THEY DID NOT EXPECT SCANDAL TO CATCH FIRE BECAUSE OF PAUCITY OF CONCRETE FACTS. IF FACTS SHOULD EMERGE, HOWEVER, SCANDAL WOULD THEN HAVE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING 1977 LOCKHEED.

1. INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT ALLEGATIONS OF KCIA PAYOFFS

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01071 241024Z

TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS HAVE POTENTIAL FOR DERAILING DIET SESSION, NOW LIKELY TO CONVENE JANUARY 31, GOJ HAS ANNOUNCED POLICY FOR PURSUING OWN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED KCIA MISDEEDS. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS SEVERAL STATEMENTS BY FONMIN OFFICIALS INDICATING FONMIN INTENT TO PURSUE INVESTIGATION AND IS RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS HELD JANUARY 22 BETWEEN PRIMIN FUKUDA, FONMIN HATOYAMA AND

GOJ AMBASSADOR TO ROK NISHIYAMA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, GOJ INVESTIGATION WILL SEEK TO CLARIFY RANARD STATEMENTS AND DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS FACTUAL BASIS FOR THEM. GOJ INTENDS TO SEEK ASSISTANCE OF BOTH US AND ROK GOVERNMENTS.

2. IN EXPLAINING POLICY, FONMIN HATOYAMA TOLD PRESS THAT GOJ INVESTIGATION HAD ALREADY BEGUN IN US AND THAT AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA WOULD REQUEST ROK ASSISTANCE ON HIS RETURN TO SEOUL.

3. IN RELATED MOVE, LDP SEC GEN OHIRA, ALSO FEARING EFFECT OF ALLEGATIONS ON DIET PROCEEDINGS, INSTRUCTED LDP INVESTIGATION BUREAU DIRECTOR TO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION WAS IN GOJ POSSESSION.

4. PRESS SPECULATES THAT WHILE GOJ WILL WISH TO CONFINE INVESTIGATION TO RANARD'S STATEMENTS AND PROVE JAPANESE INNOCENCE, OPPOSITION WILL SEEK TO TIE IT TO LOCKHEED SCANDAL, TONG-SUN PARK INVOLVEMENT IN INDONESIAN PROBLEM, KIM DAI-JUNG INCIDENT, ETC.

5. COMMENT. GOJ OBVIOUSLY NOT ENTTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF ANOTHER MAJOR SCANDAL UNFOLDING IN NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, BUT IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE TO DEMONSTRATE SOME KIND OF ACTION. POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR SCANDAL HAS WHETTED APPETITES OF OPPOSITION PARTIES LOOKING TOWARD JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, HOWEVER, AND PRESSURE WILL DOUBTLESS BE KEPT UP DURING DIET SESSION. INTERESTINGLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 01071 241024Z

PRESS HAS NOT YET EDITORIALIZED ON KCIA INVOLVEMENT IN JAPAN AND SEVERAL REPORTERS HAVE TOLD US THEY DID NOT EXPECT SCANDAL TO CATCH FIRE AS THERE IS PAUCITY OF CONCRETE FACTS. FACTUAL REVELATIONS WOULD IMMEDIATELY IGNITE PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST, HOWEVER, AND SCANDAL WOULD THEN HAVE POTENTIAL TO BECOME 1977 LOCKHEED. HODGSON

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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